

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) A system for providing a thermally optimized cold cathode heater, said system comprising:

a heater wire disposed in a plurality of turns, wherein turns of said plurality of turns are closely spaced to concentrate heat in an area of a host cathode device corresponding to a cold cathode position, and wherein turns of said plurality of turns are disposed to minimize introduction of heat in an area of said host cathode device not corresponding to said cold cathode position;

wherein said closely spaced turns of said plurality of turns comprise a first set of more than one turn corresponding to a first cathode of said host cathode device and a second set of more than one turn corresponding to a second cathode of said host cathode device; and

wherein a low resistance conductor couples said first set of more than one turn to said second set of more than one turn.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 [2], wherein a turn of said plurality of turns comprises a turn coupling said first set of more than one turn to said second set of more than one turn, wherein said turn coupling said first and second sets of turns is less closely spaced than said closely spaced turns of said first and second sets of turns.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said host cathode device comprises a cold cathode lamp.

6. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a cold cathode heater having a heater wire disposed in a plurality of turns, wherein turns of said plurality of turns are more closely spaced in a portion of said cold cathode heater corresponding to a cold cathode position and less closely spaced in a portion of said cold cathode heater that does not correspond to said cold cathode position;

wherein said plurality of turns comprises a first set of more than one turn and a second set of more than one turn; and

wherein a portion of the heater wire coupling said first set of more than one turn and said second set of more than one turn does not provide heat output.

7. (Currently amended) The system of claim 6, ~~wherein said plurality of turns comprises a first set of more than one turn and a second set of more than one turn, and~~ wherein a turn of said first set is less closely spaced from a turn of said second set than are turns of said first set of more than one turn.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said plurality of turns are concentrated at first and second ends of said cold cathode heater.

10. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said plurality of turns are more concentrated at ends of said cold cathode heater than at a middle of said cold cathode heater.

11. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said plurality of turns incarcerate a cold cathode lamp having a cathode at each end thereof, said cold cathode comprising at least one of said cathodes at an end of said cold cathode lamp.

12. (Currently amended) A method for providing heat to a cold cathode, said method comprising:

wrapping a device having said cold cathode with a heater wire;

varying spacing of the heater wire around the device to concentrate heat in an area of said device corresponding to said cold cathode and to minimize heat in an area of said device not corresponding to said cold cathode; and

coupling the heater wire to a controller; and

coupling a closely spaced plurality of turns with another closely spaced plurality of turns with a low resistance conductor.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

controlling energization of said heater wire to heat said cold cathode throughout an operational state of a host system including said device;

varying heating along the device, wherein variations of heating correspond to different concentrations of heating wire on said device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

controlling energization of said heater wire to heat said cold cathode when user activity is detected with respect to a host system including said device.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein varying spacing comprises providing different spacing between adjacent heater wire along said device.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein varying spacing further comprises providing a first concentration of heater wire at an end of the device and a second concentration of heating wire in a middle of the device, wherein the first concentration is greater than the second concentration.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said fixedly attaching said heater wire comprises:

energizing said heater wire to activate an adhesive thereon.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

coupling said closely spaced plurality of turns with another closely spaced plurality of turns with a less closely spaced turn.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said device comprises a cold cathode lamp.